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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR-EAST

CAMBODIA, LAOS, THAILAND AND VIET-NAM

Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

PLAN OF OPERATION

AGRICULTURAL FARM IN MY-THUOC

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AGRICULTURAL FARM IN MY-PHUOC

PLAN OF OPERATION

I - INTRODUCTION

The Lower Mekong Basin extends over an area more than 600,000 km^2 in superficy, including Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viêt-Nam. It is inhabited by over 40 million people, whose standard of living is very low, their national income ranging from 65 to 100 U.S. dollars per capita.

On the lower reaches of the Mekong, extending over 2400 km, there is no dam for the production of energy or for irrigation, although the region is essentially agricultural in character.

The four Governments created in 1957 the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin for the purpose of developing the hydraulic resources of the river and its tributaries.

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II - SCOPE OF WORK

For the implementation of its programme, the Committee wishes to attend simultaneously to the technical and the educational aspects of the development of the Lower Mekong Basin resources. The creation of agricultural farms illustrates this interest in the educational aspects and the Committee decided at its 21st session, held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 May 1963, to create three agricultural farms in Viêt-Nam.

The Vietnamese part of the delta includes three different regions:

- the region of QUAN-LO PHUNG-HIEP (400,000 hectares), under the influence of tides from the China sea. In this area, flooding remains at comparatively low levels. The MY-PHUOC agricultural farm site was selected for an experiment within the frame of the overall development of that plain;

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- the TRANSBASSAC (200,000 hectares), a region of the delta lying between LONG-XUYEN and RACH-GIA, characterized by higher flood levels and the possibility of draining in the direction of the Gulf of Siam;

- the Plaine des Joncs (800,000 hectares), a region with high flood levels and, in contrast with the other two areas, no opening towards the sea.

For the last two decades, plans of operation will be prepared when the agricultural farms sites have been selected.

The present operation is mainly concerned with the MY-PHUOC farm, and will include:

- the creation of an experimental 25 hectares farm with its functional buildings;
- the creation of a 200/200 hectares demonstration station adjacent to the farm.

III - FINANCING

At the 20th session of the Committee, held in Manila from 5 to 20 March 1963, the Permanent Representative of France confirmed the granting, by his country, of an allocation of 250,000 francs for the studies relating to MY-PHUOC. This sum will go on the one hand to the technical planning of the farm and, on the other hand, to the initial development and equipment work.

IV - OBLIGATIONS

With a view to ensuring an early and adequate implementation of the project, the Governments involved and the Committee undertake to carry out their obligations as follows:

A - FRANCE

The French Government will allocate the pledged amount of 250,000 francs both to the project of hydraulic development of the agricultural farm, and to the purchase of the initial equipment (sluice-gates, pumps, etc...). The French Government will in particular send to Viêt-Nam an advising engineer to prepare the

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the project relating to the water inlet, the irrigation-draining network and the pumping stations. The adviser will also suggest the types of hydraulic equipment he considers best for the satisfactory operation of the agricultural farm.

After the visit of this adviser, technical report including memorandum, maps and implementation plans will be sent to the Mekong Committee (20 copies).

B - VIET-NAM

a) - The Vietnamese Government will provide all informations and material in its possession such as will enable the advising engineer to adequately discharge his duties, including:

- topographical maps, aerial photographs and cadastral surveys;
- any project or project element which might have been created in the area and might be of interest to the contemplated development.

It will make available to the advising engineer the following services or facilities: one interpreter, some labourers, one boat with its pilot, one automobile.

b) - The Vietnamese Government will:

- select the farm site;
- provide for the topographical survey of the concerned area, about 200 to 300 hectares at a scale of 1/2,000, with 0.50 m contours, and form-lines and sub-form-lines if necessary;
- a soil survey of the farm, with a 1/5,000 mapping of the soils, their irrigation potentialities and agricultural possibilities.
- undertake the experimentation and the demonstration programme including especially irrigation and drainage, cultivation, choice of crops, excessive salinity and acidity control.
- prepare the plan of roads and the different facilities of the farm.
- prepare the design of the functional buildings.

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C - CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

a) - The Committee will take all required steps to make available to the French Government, in time for the preparation of the technical project, the data and reports in connection with surveys already carried out in the region of MY-PHUOC.

b) - The Co-ordination Committee will provide if necessary the translation from French into English of the report provided by the French Government.

V - PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

I. The French members of the survey team which will be organized to implement the present project (hereinafter referred to as "the Mission") shall be entitled to the following privileges and immunities:

a) immunity from any national service obligation;
b) immunity from immigration restrictions;
c) the privilege of bringing into the country reasonable amounts of foreign currency for the purpose of the project or personnel use of such members, and of withdrawing such amounts brought into the country and in accordance with the relevant foreign exchange regulations, such amounts as may be earned therein by such personnel in the execution of the Project;
d) the same repatriation facilities in the event of international crises as diplomatic envoys.

2. The Government of each of riparian countries shall exempt or bear the cost of any taxes, duties, fees or levies which may be imposed in respect of:

a) The salaries or wages earned by such personnel in the execution of the Project;
b) Any equipment, materials and supplies brought into the country in accordance with this plan of operation or which, after having been brought into the country, may be subsequently withdrawn therefrom;

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c) Their personnel effects, including one privately owned automobile per person, provided such articles or automobile have been imported within 6 months from the arrival of their owner to be utilized in the discharge of his duties in riparian countries;

d) Unless otherwise provided for, in so far as the above mentioned personnel will be required to work towards the implementation of this Plan of Operation, they will abide by any laws, rules and procedures of the riparian countries, including provincial, municipal or other legislation.

3. The privileges and immunities to which the Mission or its personnel are entitled may be waived by the French Government where, in its opinion, such privileges and immunities would impede the course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the successful completion of the project or the interests of the Mission.

VI - OPERATIONS TIME-TABLE

In so far as available resources will allow, the project will include the following operations:

a) - selection of the farm site;
b) - photographical mapping at a scale of 1/2,000 (two months);
c) - agro-pedological survey (two months);
d) - execution of the project and submission of the technical report (nine months later)
e) - purchase and installation of the equipment.

This Plan of Operation will come into force at the date upon which it is signed by the members of the Committee for Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viêt-Nam; by the Permanent Representative of France to ECAFE, and by the Executive Agent.

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VII - SIGNATURES

Agreed, on behalf of the Parties, by the undersigned:

Date: 7 January 1964

Phlek Chhat
For the Government of Cambodia

Date: 7 January 1964

Phouangkeoh Phanareth
For the Government of Laos

Date: 7 January 1964

Boonrod Binson
For the Government of Thailand

Date: 7 January 1964

Trinh-Ngoc-Sanh
For the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam

Date: 7 January 1964

Alain Deschamps
For the French Government

Date: 7 January 1964

C. Hart Schaaf
Executive Agent of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin